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EXAMINER

CHEN, SHIN HON

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

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DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/518,722

Applicant(s)

COOK ET AL.

Examiner

Shin-Hon Chen

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/2/01.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 52 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 March 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-53 have been examined.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 52 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim depends on itself; it should be depending on the previous claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The examiner cannot distinguish which eye-to-eye separation that said eye-to-eye separation is relative to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 2131

6. Claims 1-5, 7-38, 40-41, and 44-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Tal U.S. Pat. No. 4975969 (hereinafter Tal).

As per claim 1, Tal discloses a security method of controlling access of human beings to a secure item (Tal: column 1 lines 8-14), the method comprising the steps of (1) retrieving feature data from an identification object, said retrieved feature data representative of facial features of a first person (Tal: column 3 lines 49-50); (2) capturing facial features of a second person and generating feature data that is representative of facial features of the second person (Tal: column 3 lines 45-58; column 10 lines 57-60) and (3) comparing said retrieved feature data to said applicant feature data to determine security access for the applicant (Tal: column 3 lines 51-53).

As per claim 2, Tal further discloses (4) granting access to the applicant if agreement between said retrieved feature data and said second person feature data is above a threshold (Tal: column 11 lines 36-56); and (5) denying access to the applicant if agreement between said retrieved feature data and said applicant feature data is below said threshold (Tal: column 11 lines 13-35).

As per claim 3, Tal further discloses step (1) of claim 1 comprises the step of reading a magnetic medium to retrieve said retrieved feature data (Tal: column 1 line 60).

As per claim 4, Tal further discloses step (1) of claim 1 comprises the step of reading an optical medium to retrieve said retrieved feature data (Tal: column 1 line 57-58).

As per claim 5, Tal further discloses step (1) of claim 1 comprises the step of reading a bar code to retrieve said retrieved feature data (Tal: column 9 lines 11-15).

As per claim 7, Tal further discloses step (2) of claim 1 comprises the steps of (a) taking a picture of the applicant, and generating image data from said picture (Tal: column 6 line 56: information obtained by the camera); (b) determining a first separation distance on a face of the applicant using said image data (Tal: column 2 line 45 – column 3 line 16); (c) determining a second separation distance on said face of the applicant using said image data (Tal: column 2 line 45 – column 3 line 16); and (d) normalizing said second separation distance relative to said first separation distance resulting in a ratio that is included in said applicant feature data (Tal: column 2 line 45 – column 3 line 16; column 10 lines 33-37).

As per claim 8, Tal further discloses step (2) of claim 1 comprises the steps of (a) taking a picture of the applicant, and generating image data from said picture (Tal: column 6 line 56: information obtained by the camera); (b) determining an eye-to-eye separation on a face of said applicant using said image data (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49); (c) determining a second separation distance on said face of said applicant using said image data (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49); and (d) normalizing said second separation distance relative to said eye-to-eye separation resulting in a ratio that is included in said applicant feature data (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49; column 10 lines 33-37).

As per claim 9, Tal further discloses step (2) of claim 1 comprises the steps of (a) taking a picture of said applicant, and generating image data from said picture (Tal: column 6 line 56: information obtained by the camera); (b) determining an eye-to-eye separation on a face of said applicant using said image data (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49); (c) determining a forehead-to-chin separation on said face of said applicant using said image data

Art Unit: 2131

(Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49); and (d) normalizing said forehead-to-chin separation relative to said eye-to-eye separation resulting in a ratio that is included in said feature data (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49; column 10 lines 33-37).

As per claim 10, Tal further discloses step (2) of claim 1 comprises the steps of (a) taking a picture of said applicant, and generating image data from said picture (Tal: column 6 line 56: information obtained by the camera); (b) determining an eye-to-eye separation of said applicant using said image data (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49); (c) determining an ear-to-ear separation on said face of said applicant using said image data (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49); and (d) normalizing said ear-to-ear separation relative to said eye-to-eye separation resulting in a ratio that is included in said applicant feature data (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49; column 10 lines 33-37).

As per claim 11, Tal further discloses step (2) of claim 1 comprises the steps of (a) taking a picture of said applicant (Tal: column 6 line 56: information obtained by the camera); and (b) determining a separation distance between a first and second feature on a face of the applicant, said applicant feature data representative of said separation distance (Tal: column 3 lines 1-3).

As per claim 12, Tal further discloses step (b) of claim 11 comprises the steps of (i) locating a first eye and a second eye of the applicant (Tal: column 10 lines 23-35); and (ii) determining an eye-to-eye separation between said first and second eye (Tal: column 10 lines 23-35).

As per claim 13, Tal further discloses the method of claim 11 comprises the steps of: (c) determining a second separation distance between a third feature and a fourth feature on the face of the applicant (Tal: column 3 lines 1-3); and (d) normalizing said second separation distance relative to said first separation distance (Tal: column 10 lines 23-35).

As per claim 14, Tal further discloses step (1) of claim 1 comprises the steps of: (a) reading said card medium to retrieve an ID code representative of said applicant (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12: the information is digitized), and (b) retrieving said feature data using said ID code (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12: analyze the digitized data).

As per claim 15, Tal further discloses step (b) of claim 14 comprises the step of retrieving said feature data from a memory, said feature data cataloged using said ID code (Tal: column 10 lines 61-67).

As per claim 16, Tal further discloses claim 1 comprises the steps of: (4) capturing said facial features of the card owner to generate said card feature data (Tal: figure 4a and column 10 lines 57-60); and (5) writing said card feature data to said card medium prior to step (1) (Tal: figure 4a and column 10 lines 33-52).

As per claim 17, Tal further discloses step (3) of claim 1 comprises the step of comparing a normalized forehead-to-chin separation of the card owner with a normalized forehead-to-chin separation of the applicant (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12).

As per claim 18, Tal further discloses step (3) of claim 1 comprises the step of comparing a normalized nostril-to-nostril separation of the card owner with a normalized nostril-to-nostril separation of the applicant (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12).

As per claim 19, Tal further discloses step (3) of claim 1 comprises the step of comparing a normalized feature separation of the card owner with a normalized feature separation of the applicant (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12; column 11 lines 36-56).

As per claim 20, Tal further discloses a method of limiting security access to an authorized card owner (Tal: column 1 lines 8-14), the method comprising the steps of (1) reading a medium of an access card to retrieve facial features of the card owner; (2) taking a picture of an applicant and determining facial features of the applicant using the picture (Tal: figure 4a and column 10 lines 57-60); and (3) comparing said facial features of the card owner with said facial features of the applicant to determine access of the applicant (Tal: column 3 lines 51-53).

As per claim 21, Tal further discloses the method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of: (4) granting access to the applicant if there is sufficient agreement between said applicant facial features and said card owner facial features (Tal: column 11 lines 36-56); and (5) denying access to the applicant if there is there is not sufficient agreement between said applicant facial features and said card owner facial features (Tal: column 11 lines 13-35).

As per claim 22, Tal further discloses a method of determining if an applicant is, the owner of an access card for security access purposes (Tal: column 1 lines 8-14), the method comprising the steps of (1) reading a bar code on an access card, said bar code having feature data representative of facial features of a card owner (Tal: column 9 lines 11-15); (2) capturing facial features of an applicant and generating applicant feature data that is representative of said applicant facial features (Tal: figure 4a and column 10 lines 57-60), said step (2) comprising the steps of (a) taking a picture of the applicant (Tal: figure 4a and column 10 lines 57-60); (b) determining an eye-to-eye separation of the applicant using said picture (Tal: column 3 line 21-

Art Unit: 2131

44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49); and (c) determining a second separation distance on a face of the applicant using said picture (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49), and normalizing said second separation distance to said eye-to-eye separation (Tal: column 2 line 45 – column 3 line 16; column 10 lines 33-37); (3) comparing said applicant feature data to said card feature data to determine security access, comprising the step of comparing said normalized separation distance of said applicant with a corresponding normalized separation distance of said card owner included in said card feature data (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12).

As per claim 23, Tal further discloses said second separation distance of claim 22 is a forehead-to-chin separation (Tal: column 11 lines 7-12).

As per claim 24, Tal further discloses said second separation distance of claim 22 is a nostril-to-nostril separation (Tal: column 11 lines 7-12).

As per claim 25, Tal further discloses said second separation distance of claim 22 is an ear-to-ear separation (Tal: column 11 lines 7-12).

As per claim 26, Tal further discloses a method of recording facial features of a person in a storage medium (Tal: column 9 line 65 – column 10 line 52), the method comprising the steps of (1) taking a picture of the person (Tal: figure 4a and column 10 lines 16-20), (2) generating feature data representative of facial features of the person (Tal: figure 4a and column 10 lines 22-25), and (3) writing said feature data to said storage medium (Tal: figure 4a and column 10 lines 33-52).

As per claim 27, Tal further discloses step (3) of claim 26 comprises the step of writing said feature data to a magnetic medium on an access card (Tal: column 1 line 60).

Art Unit: 2131

As per claim 28, Tal further discloses step (3) of claim 26 comprises the step of writing said feature data to an optical storage medium on an access card (Tal: column 1 line 57-58).

As per claim 29, Tal further discloses step (3) of claim 26 comprises the step of writing said feature data to a bar code on an access card (Tal: column 9 lines 11-15).

As per claim 30, Tal further discloses step (3) of claim 26 comprises the steps of (a) writing an ID code associated with the person to an access card (Tal: column 10 lines 33-52); and (b) storing said feature data in a memory that is cataloged using said ID code (Tal: column 10 lines 33-52).

As per claim 31, Tal further discloses step (2) of claim 26 comprises the step of generating feature data representative of facial features of the person, said feature data including at least one first separation distance between at a first face feature and a second face feature (Tal: column 2 line 45 – column 3 line 20).

As per claim 32, Tal further discloses step (2) of generating feature data of claim 26 comprises the steps of (a) determining a first separation distance between a first facial feature and a second facial feature using said picture (Tal: column 2 line 45 – column 34 line 20); (b) determining a second separation distance between a third facial feature and a fourth facial feature using said picture (Tal: column 2 line 45 – column 3 line 16); and (c) normalizing said second separation distance relative to said first separation distance resulting in a ratio that is included in said feature data (Tal: column 2 line 45 – column 3 line 16; column 10 lines 33-37).

As per claim 33, Tal further discloses step (a) of claim 32 comprises the step of determining an eye-to-eye separation of the person using said picture (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49).

As per claim 34, Tal further discloses step (b) of claim 32 comprises the step of determining a forehead-to-chin separation of the person using said picture (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49).

As per claim 35, Tal further discloses step (b) of claim 32 comprises the step of determining an ear-to-ear separation of the person using the picture (Tal: column 3 line 21-44; column 4 line 13 – column 6 line 49).

As per claim 36, Tal further discloses a system for determining security access of an applicant (Tal: column 1 lines 8-14), comprising: a medium reader, for reading an access card medium to retrieve card feature data, said card feature data representative of facial features of a card owner (Tal: figure 4b and column 10 lines 54-55); a feature extractor for taking a picture of said applicant, and generating feature data representative of facial features of said applicant (Tal: figure 4b and column 10 lines 57-60); and a processor for comparing said card feature: data to said applicant feature data to determine security access (Tal: figure 4b and column 11 lines 3-12).

As per claim 37, Tal further discloses said medium reader of claim 36 comprises a magnetic reader for reading a magnetic card medium on said access card to retrieve said card feature data (Tal: column 1 line 60; column 9 lines 11-52; column 10 lines 54-55).

As per claim 38, Tal further discloses said medium reader of claim 36 comprises a bar code reader for reading a bar code medium on said access card to retrieve said card feature data (Tal: column 9 lines 11-52; column 10 lines 54-55).

As per claim 40, Tal further discloses the apparatus of claim 36, wherein said feature extractor comprises a camera for taking a picture of the applicant (Tal: figure 4b and column 10

Art Unit: 2131

lines 58-59); and a second processor for generating said applicant feature data based on image data that is representative of said picture, said processor determining a separation distance based on a first facial feature and a second facial feature, said applicant feature data including said separation distance (Tal: figure 4b and column 10 lines 61-67).

As per claim 41, Tal further discloses the apparatus of claim 39 comprises a means for generating said image data from said picture (Tal: column 10 line 61 and figure 4b).

As per claim 44, Tal further discloses a system for determining security access of an applicant, comprising: a medium reader, for reading an access card medium to retrieve card feature data, said card feature data representative of facial features of a card owner (Tal: figure 4b and column 10 lines 54-55); a camera for taking a picture of the applicant, said camera including a means for generating image data representative of said picture (Tal: figure 4b and column 10 lines 58-59); and a processor coupled to said medium reader and said camera, said processor including computer program code for causing said processor to determine if the applicant is the card owner using said image data of said applicant and said card feature data (Tal: column 10 line 52 – column 11 line 12), said computer program code comprising, first program code means for causing said processor to determine an applicant feature separation using said image data, said applicant feature separation representing a distance between a first feature and a second feature on a face of said applicant (Tal: column 10 line 62-67), second program code means for causing said processor retrieve a card owner feature separation using said card feature data, said card owner feature separation representing a distance between a first feature and a second feature on a face of said card owner (Tal: column 10 lines 26-30), and third program code

Art Unit: 2131

means for causing said processor to compare said card owner feature separation to said applicant feature separation and determine agreement for security access (Tal: column 11 lines 10-12).

As per claim 45, Tal further discloses said program code means of claim 44 comprises fourth program code means for causing said processor grant access to the applicant if agreement is above a threshold (Tal: column 11 lines 12-56); and fifth program code means for causing said processor deny access to the applicant if agreement is below a threshold (Tal: column 11 lines 12-56).

As per claim 46, Tal further discloses said medium reader of claim 44 is a bar code reader (Tal: column 9 lines 11-15).

As per claim 47, Tal further discloses said card owner feature separation of claim 44 is normalized to an eye-to-eye separation of the card owner, and wherein said first program code means comprises program code means for causing said processor to determine an eye-to-eye separation of the applicant using the image data, and normalize said applicant feature separation relative to said eye-to-eye separation (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12; column 11 lines 36-56).

As per claim 48, Tal further discloses said card owner feature separation of claim 44 is a normalized forehead-to-chin separation of the card owner, and wherein said applicant feature separation is a normalized forehead-to-chin separation of the applicant (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12; column 11 lines 36-56).

As per claim 49, Tal further discloses said card owner feature separation of claim 44 is a normalized nostril-to-nostril separation of the card owner, and wherein said applicant feature

Art Unit: 2131

separation is a normalized nostril-to-nostril separation of the applicant (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12; column 11 lines 36-56).

As per claim 50, Tal further discloses said card owner feature separation of claim 44 is a normalized ear-to-ear separation of the card owner, and wherein said applicant feature separation is a normalized ear-to-ear separation of the applicant (Tal: column 10 line 53 – column 11 line 12; column 11 lines 36-56).

As per claim 51, Tal further discloses an access card for use with a security system, said access card comprising a storage medium that stores feature data representative of facial features associated with an owner of the access card (Tal: column 9 lines 11-65).

As per claim 52, Tal further discloses said medium of claim 51 is a bar code (Tal: column 9 lines 11-34).

As per claim 53, Tal further discloses said feature data of claim 51 includes separation distances associated with said facial features of said card owner (Tal: column 9 lines 53-65; column 10 line 57 – column 11 line 17).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2131

8. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tal as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Payne et al. U.S. Pat. No. 6072894 (hereinafter Payne).

As per claim 6, Tal discloses a security method according to claim 1. Tal does not explicitly disclose the method of reading a 2-dimensional bar code to retrieve said retrieved feature data. However, Payne discloses that limitation (Payne: column 3 line 66 – column 4 line 6: uses an account holder photo, encoded into 2D barcode). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Payne within the system of Tal because it enhances the functionality of 1 dimensional bar code.

9. Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tal as applied to claim 38 above, and further in view of Payne.

As per claim 39, Tal discloses a security system according to claim 38. Tal does not explicitly disclose said bar code reader comprises a means for reading a 2 dimensional bar code. However, Payne discloses that limitation (Payne: column 3 line 66 – column 4 line 6: uses an account holder photo, encoded into 2D barcode). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Payne within the system of Tal because it a requirement to have a 2 dimensional bar code reader to read 2 dimensional bar code.

10. Claims 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tal as applied to claim 41 above, and further in view of Schwab U.S. Pat. No. 5973731 (hereinafter Schwab).

Art Unit: 2131

As per claim 42, Tal discloses the apparatus of claim 41. Tal does not explicitly disclose said means for generating said image data comprises a computer scanner. However, Schwab discloses that limitation (Schwab: column 4 lines 24-38). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Schwab within the system of Tal because the computer scanner would allow the picture to be digitized.

As per claim 43, Tal discloses the apparatus of claim 41. Tal does not explicitly disclose said camera is a digital camera, said digital camera generating said image data from said picture. However, Schwab discloses that limitation (Schwab: column 4 lines 24-38). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Schwab within the system of Tal because digital camera allows the system to store the digitized data without a digitizer disclosed by Tal.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lu et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5432864 discloses identification card verification system.

Lobo et al. U.S. Pat. No. 5835616 discloses face detection using templates.

Houvener U.S. Pat. No. 6424249 discloses positive identity verification system and method including biometric user authentication.

Bogosian U.S. Pat. No. Re.36580 discloses system for verifying use of credit/identification card including recording physical attributes of unauthorized users.

Art Unit: 2131

Ritter U.S. Pat. No. 6657538 discloses method, system and devices for authenticating persons.

Schroeder U.S. Pat. No. 5787186 discloses biometric security process for authenticating identity and credit cards, visas, passports and facial recognition.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Hon Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8654. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (703) 305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-3138.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Shin-Hon Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2131

SC


GREGORY MORSE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100